

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6701

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, UK

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF DUKE OF LEINSTER

1. DUKE OF LEINSTER, PREMIER PEER OF IRELAND, HAS WRITTEN AMBASSADOR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR LEINSTER TO MEET PRESIDENT FORD, VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER, SECRETARY KISSINGER, SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, AND MRS. ALICE ROOSEVELT LONGWORTH DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1. LEINSTER WILL BE TRAVELLING IN U.S. FROM NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH DEC. 16 (HE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK ON FORMER DATE VIA QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND WILL BE STAYING AT WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL UNTIL NOVEMBER 28). PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED, NON-SECTARIAN CHARITY, ALL-IRELAND DISTRESS FUND (AID). LEINSTER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DUCHESS, AND PARTY OF THREE.

2. FYI - IRISH PEERS ARE NOT MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF LORDS UNLESS THEY ALSO HOLD ENGLISH TITLES; LEINSTER IS ENGLISH VISCOUNT AND, ACCORDINGLY, MEMBER OF LORDS. SUCH PEERS ARE USUALLY ADDRESSED BY THEIR HIGHER TITLE. AGE 83, LEINSTER SUCCEEDED ELDER BROTHER IN 1922, BUT WAS BARRED FROM TAKING SEAT IN LORDS BECAUSE HE WAS BANKRUPT. HIS FINANCIAL CONDITION WAS RIGHTED IN 1975, AND HE TOOK SEAT IN LORDS, SOME 53 YEARS AFTER SUCCEEDING TO TITLE. THIS UNIQUE CASE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION EARLIER

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THIS YEAR. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, LEINSTER'S CAREER

HAS BEEN OTHERWISE UNDISTINGUISHED. REGARDING AID, FCO
ADVISES THAT GOVERNMENT HAS DECLINED TO SUPPORT OR EN-
DORSE THIS CHARITY AND NOTES THAT LEINSTER CLAIMS TO HAVE
SUPPORT OF NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, WHICH IS UNTRUE. FCO
HAS ALSO ADVISED ITS EMBASSY WASHINGTON OF LEINSTER'S
TRIP AND THAT HE IS POTENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM.
END FYI.

3. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IT
DEEMS APPROPRIATE AND ADVISE EMBASSY.

RICHARDSON

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